

Application No. 10/042,000
Response to 09/09/2005 Action

Attorney's Docket No. 0119-119

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending.

Three Replacement Sheets of drawings accompanied the Response filed on June 10, 2005. An indication of the Examiner's acceptance of the Replacement Sheets is respectfully requested.

The withdrawal of the previous rejections for anticipation and obviousness is noted.

The pending Action rejects claims 1-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for anticipation by U.S. Patent No. 6,876,643 to Aggarwal et al. ("Aggarwal"). For reasons described in more detail below, the anticipation rejections should be reconsidered and withdrawn because Aggarwal does not teach all of features recited in the claims rejected for anticipation.

Pending claim 1, for example, defines a method for coordinating network nodes in a network. In pertinent part, the method includes informing a first slave node of a first period to scan for inquiry messages and informing a second slave node of a second period for scanning for inquiry messages, where the first and second periods do not occur during a same period of time. This sort of assignment of periods for scanning is included in claims 1-8 and 22-30 and is described in the application at p. 11, ll. 11-19, and p. 12, l. 25 - p. 13, l. 10, for example.

Aggarwal is utterly silent on informing slave nodes of non-overlapping periods for scanning for inquiry messages. If anything, the lengthy sections of Aggarwal listed in the Action teach just the opposite: nodes should scan for "inquiry messages continuously instead of intermittently". Col. 2, ll. 55-58 (underlining added). Of course, nodes that are continuously scanning cannot be nodes that scan during first or second periods that do not occur during the same time as claimed.

Aggarwal expressly states that continuous scanning is "an important idea" that is used "to increase the probability of the message reaching another device". Col. 6, ll. 24-27. The importance of such continuous scanning is discussed in Aggarwal in many places besides those already cited (see, e.g., col. 3, ll. 50-55; col. 4, ll. 48-59), and yet nowhere does Aggarwal teach nodes scanning during first or second periods

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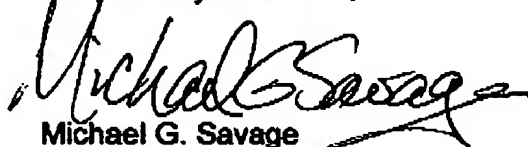
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that do not occur during the same time as claimed. Aggarwal expressly teaches away from non-continuous scanning (e.g., alternating scanning and transmitting) by stating that "When all devices alternate between send and listen states, the chances of a frequency match between the nodes becomes less." Col. 6, ll. 27-30.

Because Aggarwal says nothing about these features of the pending claims, it is respectfully submitted that Aggarwal fails to anticipate these claims and it is respectfully requested that the anticipation rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn. If the rejections are maintained, it is respectfully requested that a section or sections of Aggarwal be identified that specifically discloses at least the claimed feature of informing a first slave node of a first period to scan for inquiry messages and informing a second slave node of a second period for scanning for inquiry messages, where the first and second periods do not occur during a same period of time.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are allowable. Approval of the three sheets of replacement drawings filed with the previous Response and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions, the undersigned attorney may be telephoned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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